

MULTILINGUAL MEDIA

December 8, 2016

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■ **The Progressive Conservatives says Ontario sold \$9.4 million worth of excess electricity to the United States for \$140,000 (A8)**

Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown says the province sold \$9.4 million worth of excess electricity for just \$144,000 on Nov. 10, which he suspects is a “record day for this government in terms of wasted power.” Ontario has “given away” \$6 billion in surplus electricity since 2009 by selling it at a big loss, said Brown. “This is embarrassing for the province of Ontario,” he said. “We are hurting our businesses. We are subsidizing competitors.” Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault admits the figures showing the low price Ontario gets for surplus electricity can be shocking at first blush. “When you look at that, you do the face palm,” said Thibeault. “But what we have to do is make sure we tell the whole story, not just one day.” Ontario made \$230 million in 2015 by selling excess electricity to neighbouring jurisdictions, added Thibeault. Ontario suffered through power shortages and brown outs when the Conservatives were last in power, and had to spend up to \$500 million a year to buy electricity from its neighbours to keep the lights on, said Thibeault.

■ **CUPE has launched a lawsuit against the Ontario government to stop the sale of Hydro One shares (A8)**

The Canadian Union of Public Employees said Wednesday that its lawsuit against the Ontario premier and two Liberal cabinet ministers over the sale of Hydro One; is finally headed to court. CUPE Ontario president Fred Hahn said the suit, officially filed on Tuesday, is aimed at stopping the sale of any more shares in the giant electricity transmission utility before private owners have control of its board. “Today we still own a majority of Hydro One and there is still accountability to our government,” said Hahn. “The minute we lose majority control, decisions about the electrical system will be controlled by a corporate board whose sole interest is in raising profit, not the interests of the people.” The government has already sold about 30 per cent of the shares in Hydro One, and plans to sell another 30 per cent to raise a total of \$9 billion to pay down debt and to fund public transit and infrastructure projects.

■ **One thousand four hundred customers who were cut off for non-payment; will have their electricity reconnected (A8)**

Hydro One is promising to have 1,400 customers back on the grid in time for Christmas after their electricity was cut off for failing to pay their bills. Reconnection fees, which can reach up to \$300 and are a barrier to many customers, are being waived. Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault said the government has proposed legislation that would ban any electric utility from cutting customers off during winter. To help Ontarians with their hydro bills in the face of higher rates over the last few years as coal-fired power plants have been phased out and more expensive renewable sources of energy are being phased in, the government is waiving the 8 per cent provincial portion of the HST on electricity starting in January.

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- **The Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit project will put aside 10 per cent of trade jobs for apprentices and journey persons who live along the transit corridor (A12)**

Ontario has finalized a landmark agreement with government agencies, business, labour and the local community to help people from disadvantaged communities along the Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit corridor get construction jobs on the largest transit project in Canada. The partners have set a goal that 10 per cent of all trade and crafting hours needed for the project will be performed by apprentices and journey persons who live along the transit corridor and who have had trouble finding jobs. Premier Kathleen Wynne announced details of the community benefits declaration yesterday at the Workers Health and Safety Centre in Toronto. This valuable experience will offer them the opportunity to develop careers in the construction sector. Premier Wynne said: "Infrastructure projects such as the Eglinton Crosstown LRT can create benefits for communities that go beyond simply building the infrastructure needed. Through this agreement, people facing employment challenges will have the opportunity to acquire new skills and get good jobs in construction. We're building more than transit. We're building partnerships and pathways that are creating more opportunities for people to thrive in the economy."

- **Ontario has introduced legislation to support the implementation of medically assisted dying (A13)**

Ontario introduced legislation Wednesday to support the implementation of medically assisted dying. The Medical Assistance In Dying Statute includes a series of amendments to several pieces of legislation, including the Coroner's Act, the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, to provide more clarity on the issue for patients, families, doctors and other health-care providers. Ontarians who opt for a doctor-assisted death could not be denied life insurance benefits under legislation proposed by the province's health minister. The bill is intended to clarify rights and protections for patients and health care professionals under Canada's medically assisted suicide law passed by Parliament in June. "There are many sensitive and complex issues related to end-of-life care," Ontario Health Minister Eric Hoskins said in a statement Wednesday. The province has committed funding of \$75 million over three years to improve palliative and end-of-life care.

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- **China Southern Airlines holds a celebration event to mark the inaugural flight from Toronto to Guangzhou (A6)**

Yesterday, China Southern Airlines held a celebration event to mark the inaugural flight from Toronto to Guangzhou. International Trade Minister Michael Chan and MPP Soo Wong both attended the event.

- **CUPE has launched a lawsuit against the Ontario government to stop the sale of Hydro One shares (A10)**

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transmission utility before private owners have control of its board. "Today we still own a majority of Hydro One and there is still accountability to our government," said Hahn. "The minute we lose majority control, decisions about the electrical system will be controlled by a corporate board whose sole interest is in raising profit, not the interests of the people." The government has already sold about 30 per cent of the shares in Hydro One, and plans to sell another 30 per cent to raise a total of \$9 billion to pay down debt and to fund public transit and infrastructure projects. In September, CUPE served the Ministry of the Attorney General with a notice of intent to sue Premier Kathleen Wynne, Finance Minister Charles Sousa and former Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli for misfeasance.

- **Ontario's Progressive Conservatives are accusing the provincial government of selling electricity to three U.S. states at a big loss (A10)**

Ontario's official opposition says the governors of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio should send Premier Kathleen Wynne thank-you notes for the cheap power they're getting from the province. Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown says the province sold \$9.4 million worth of excess electricity for just \$144,000 on Nov. 10, which he suspects is a "record day for this government in terms of wasted power." Ontario has "given away" \$6 billion in surplus electricity since 2009 by selling it at a big loss, said Brown. Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault admits the figures showing the low price Ontario gets for surplus electricity can be shocking at first blush. "When you look at that, you do the face palm," said Thibeault. "But what we have to do is make sure we tell the whole story, not just one day." Ontario made \$230 million in 2015 by selling excess electricity to neighbouring jurisdictions, added Thibeault.

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- **More than 14,000 Syrian refugees have settled in the province over the past year (2)**

Ontario is continuing to welcome and support Syrian refugees as they settle and build new lives in the province. Since the first airplane of refugees from the Syrian conflict touched down in Ontario one year ago this week, more than 14,000 refugees have found safety and a new start in the province, with the support of the provincial government, municipalities, community service providers, sponsors and volunteers. Ontario received more than 40 per cent of refugee arrivals to Canada. Those refugees have been settling into their new lives with the help of language training, employment training and school enrolment and are already giving back to their communities through volunteerism. Citizenship and Immigration Minister Laura Albanese said: "The investments that we are making now will ensure that refugees are in the best position to succeed in the future. I am proud of what our government and our community partners have achieved in such a short time. Together, we are meeting an extraordinary challenge and continuing to prove that Ontario is a welcoming place for those fleeing war and oppression."

- **The Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit project will put aside 10 per cent of trade jobs for apprentices and journey persons who live along the transit corridor (8)**

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Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit corridor get construction jobs on the largest transit project in Canada. Premier Kathleen Wynne announced details of the community benefits declaration yesterday at the Workers Health and Safety Centre in Toronto. The partners have set a goal that 10 per cent of all trade and crafting hours needed for the project will be performed by apprentices and journey persons who live along the transit corridor and who have had trouble finding jobs. This valuable experience will offer them the opportunity to develop careers in the construction sector. Premier Wynne said: "Infrastructure projects such as the Eglinton Crosstown LRT can create benefits for communities that go beyond simply building the infrastructure needed. Through this agreement, people facing employment challenges will have the opportunity to acquire new skills and get good jobs in construction. We're building more than transit. We're building partnerships and pathways that are creating more opportunities for people to thrive in the economy."

■ **CUPE has filed a lawsuit against Premier Kathleen Wynne and Finance Minister Charles Sousa (11)**

Members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees have officially filed a lawsuit against Ontario's premier regarding the sale of Hydro One. News of the lawsuit came in September when CUPE president Fred Hahn announced that lawyers representing the union served the premier, Minister Charles Sousa and Minister Glenn Thibeault with a 60-day notice of intent to sue. On Wednesday, the union confirmed that the documents had been formally filed in court. The union had hoped the province would "come to their senses" and stop selling shares in the public utility so they could avoid proceeding with the lawsuit. While speaking to reporters at an event Wednesday, Premier Kathleen Wynne briefly addressed the lawsuit. The premier said that while she can't comment on the court case directly, "broadening the ownership" of Hydro One is important if the province wants to continue investing in infrastructure projects.

OMNI NEWS (CANTONESE EDITION): DECEMBER 7, 2016

■ **China Southern Airlines holds a celebration event to mark the inaugural flight from Toronto to Guangzhou (2)**

Yesterday, China Southern Airlines held a celebration event to mark the inaugural flight from Toronto to Guangzhou. International Trade Minister Michael Chan and MPP Soo Wong both attended the event.

■ **CUPE has launched a lawsuit against Premier Kathleen Wynne and two Liberal cabinet ministers (7)**

The Canadian Union of Public Employees said today that its lawsuit against the Ontario premier and two Liberal cabinet ministers over the sale of Hydro One; is finally headed to court. CUPE Ontario president Fred Hahn said the suit, officially filed on Tuesday, is aimed at stopping the sale of any more shares in the giant electricity transmission utility before private owners have control of its board. The government has already sold about 30 per cent of the shares in Hydro One, and plans to sell another 30 per cent.

SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITY MEDIA

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CANADIAN PUNJABI POST: DECEMBER 8, 2016

- **Lawsuit against Wynne and two ministers (1)**
The Canadian Union of Public Employees has filed a lawsuit against Premier Wynne and two of her Ministers to stop the Ontario government from selling more shares of Hydro One. Finance Minister Charles Sousa and Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli are the two Ministers named in the lawsuit. The Union claims Wynne and her Ministers tried to benefit private investors through the privatization of Hydro One.

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- **Province investing in 3,400 new child care spaces and launching public consultations (4)**
Ontario is improving access to affordable, accessible, high-quality child care and early years programming for families across the province. As a first step in delivering 100,000 more child care spaces within the next five years, Ontario is creating approximately 3,400 new child care spaces in schools this year. Associate Minister of Education for Early Years and Child Care Indira Naidoo-Harris was recently at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School in Toronto to highlight the new investment.
 - **Ontario making criminal justice system faster and fairer (6)**
Ontario is taking steps to improve the province's criminal justice system to make it faster and fairer. The government's plan to reduce time-to-trial and improve the bail system will enhance public safety by speeding up the resolution of criminal cases.
 - **Ensuring equal recognition for all parents and children (7)**
Ontario has passed legislation that will ensure equal treatment for all parents and children in the province. Bill 28, the All Families Are Equal Act, 2016, recognizes the legal status of all parents, whether they are LGBTQ2+ or heterosexual, and whether their children were conceived with or without assistance.
- Wynne promotes Ontario's auto and aerospace industries in Japan (7)**
Premier Kathleen Wynne has concluded the Japan leg of her business mission by meeting with key economic leaders and manufacturing executives to promote Ontario's innovative business environment. Premier Wynne also visited South Korea during the mission. The productive mission led to 28 agreements and announcements valued at about \$240 million.
- Strengthening health care for Kingston area patients (9)**
Patients and families in eastern Ontario will soon have access to more health care close to home, which mental health supports and complex care and rehabilitation, through a new state-of-the-art hospital in Kingston. MPP for Kingston and Islands Sophie Kiwal

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joined staff at Providence Care Hospital to celebrate the substantial completion of the facility.

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- **No relevant news**

AJIT WEEKLY: DECEMBER 8 TO DECEMBER 14, 2016

- **No relevant news**